



# THE THATCHAM POSTMARK



THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
AUTUMN EDITION SEPTEMBER 2019

## The Chairmans Report

Once again a very good year for our society with the social meetings, Auction night and Westbex going quite well, Both the Monday and Thursday meetings have been well attended and we have had some very good speakers:- `Coaches and Coach Horns` with The Tootler, `1890 1d Post` with John Davies. Malcolm Hoskins entertained us as did Bob Paterson, Graeme Stewart and John Tingey.

The AGM went well with no matters arising. Our membership is falling somewhat but we are still one of the best societies in the area and financially secure.

The box circuit, organised by Neil Hatton is doing fine and we welcome Mike Smith as our new Chairman who also acts as our auctioneer.

Many thanks to all those members that have helped out in so many ways – teas and coffees throughout the year, Christmas buffets, tables and chairs at our meetings and especially for assistance at Westbex 2019.

Barney Bardsley – The outgoing Chairman

Year 53

Issue 146

### *Inside this issue:-*

*Front page –Chairmans  
report*

*Page 2 - Pictures*

*Page 3 - Meetings data*

*Page 4 - Meetings data*

*Page 5 - Meetings data*

*Page 6 - Data and pictures*

*Page 7 - Websites, Royal  
Mail Issues, Society data.*

*Back page - Club Stamps,  
Future Events, Society data.*



Mike Smith being presented with the Jerry Wilson  
Memorial Trophy by our Chairman

*For further information on  
anything in this newsletter  
please contact*

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*Tel 01635 866437*

*or*

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*Tel 01635 866942*

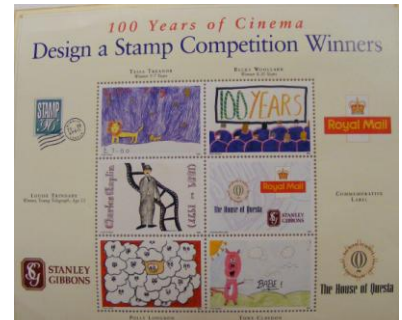
# Photo Gallery



The Fire Devil cartoons



The A.G.M. Top Table



Design a Stamp winners



Balkans War Cinderellas



Juliet won the Quiz



Moon Landings



Cartoon Space Trips



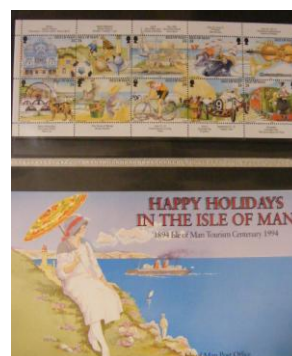
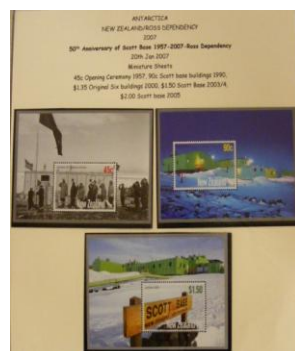
John Tingey and Reginald Bray's false USA covers



Bob Paterson displays



Antarctica Scott Base



Happy Holidays



## PAST EVENTS

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July. The Monday Cup Competition for the Jerry Wilson Trophy, a quiz and some displays. There were 15 members present.**

Seven members put up their 3-sheet entries for the competition. Voting slips were issued and all came to view the entries and mark them accordingly with 1 point for 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 3 for second and 5 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place. The results were:-

<b>In first place</b>	<b>27 points</b>	<b>Mike Smith</b>	<b>Bechuanaland and its Railway</b>
In second place	25 points	<b>Malcolm Hoskins</b>	Emergency Mail series of Canada
In third place	21 points	<b>Martin Farr</b>	Mutiny on the Bounty

Our Chairman Barney Bardsley presented Mike with the trophy and a bottle of wine.

After the presentation we had a quiz about "Find the Towns", for example – `Where the sheep got out` = Ramsgate. There were 18 questions and the winner was **Juliet Keel** with 12 correct answers and Martin presented her with a bottle of wine.

Members displayed some great sheets for part 2.

**Malcolm Hoskins** showed lots of lovely Cinderellas that were all collected by a Lance Corporal in Germany and he got them as a job lot at a stamp fair. They were amazing.

**Ian Keel** showed some general Cinderellas and recent issues of some more.

**Mike Smith** then displayed Bechuanaland issues of a private company and some fiscal issues and then issues of the 1897 Brussels International Exhibition.

Finally **Graeme Stewart** showed a USA label issue on a letter that was sent to Newbury and several sheets about the stamp design competition of 1996 and competition winners.

In the evening – not too much time for dinner – **Graeme** and **Martin** went to the Petersfield Society where there was a small but appreciative audience. Martin showed and spoke about The Tokaido Road and other Japanese sheets and in part 2 Graeme showed and discussed his extensive display of Post Boxes.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July and the theme was "Philatelic Halves" with John Tingey and Bob Paterson taking the place of Nathan Gregory who was unable to attend.**

With the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first moon landing only 2 days away, **Bob Paterson** gave an appropriate display entitled `2000 years to Lift-off`. His talk described the efforts of mankind to reach the Moon in fantasy, fiction and fact, from the first story written some 1800 years ago, via Jules Verne and other authors and then early experiments with rockets leading to the American Space Programme which culminated in the Lunar Missions.



Bob briefly described the early flights, from the one man `Mercury` capsules through bigger two-man Gemini craft and finishing with the three man Apollo missions. These were all written up and illustrated with great sheets of stamps and covers as well as ephemera and, as Bob pointed out, with so much available, he did not have to pay an arm and a leg to buy suitable material. What a great display and discussion.

For part 2 **John Tingey** spoke once more about Reginald Bray, (The man who posted himself and other curious objects), and how he had acquired quite a lot more material about the eccentric gentleman and what he had posted to himself and `persuaded` others to post for him. I was not actually there but, by all accounts, it was a very interesting session indeed.

We are sad to report that, in early July, **David Beddoes**, one of our original members from 1966 and a Hon. Life Member passed away in hospital. David had been undergoing treatment for an ongoing kidney complaint for many years and since Christmas his condition had worsened.

David was the club treasurer from 1969-1993 and then served on the committee until 2000. He was made an Hon. Life Member in 1994. He also received the ABPS Award of Merit for his services to local philately. He had been a regular at our meetings over the years but his illness in recent years limited his involvement. David was involved in club auctions and was auction secretary from 1988 – 1991 and always helped at our auctions at the top table. He was also involved in a bit of dealing, often attended local auctions looking for some bargains.

Although David had suffered recently he was always cheerful and tried to come to our Monday meetings to provide us with mini auctions when he could. David was a stalwart of the club almost since its inception and supportive of us in many ways.

Our sincere condolences and sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues.

Thank you David, you will be sadly missed.

There was no Monday meeting held in August as is usual.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August - `Holiday Destinations` and there were 13 members present.**

**Ian Keel** started the evening by showing an assortment of philatelic items that they had picked up in China and Russia and from many other holiday destinations. What a well travelled couple they are!

**Dave Tanner** showed many postcards from the club boxes and lots from the places that he had been. Early postcards from Bournemouth and Swanage and lots of places in the West Country he had visited when quite young. Then from places in Germany when he was in the Forces and also when caravanning to Venice and S. Europe. A great set of cards and very interesting well remembered visits.

**Juliet Keel** then showed us postcards, all over 100 years old, showing the places they had been to. They visited Switzerland to see her grandma then many places in Europe, Bermuda, Canada, Egypt and Berlin to name a few. Then a great train trip on the Orient Express from Moscow to Beijing and Canton and many more locations that we would all like to visit. Once again a well travelled couple.

**Martin Farr** then talked about their recent trip to Jordan where they visited Wadi Rum and rode on camels in the desert, then to Jerash to visit the Roman city remains (quite amazing) and then on to Petra which had been his great ambition to visit. The walk down through the ravine was just fantastic even in 37 degrees heat. It was too hot to walk all the way back up and so they got on donkeys to half way and then in a donkey cart. Absolutely fabulous – you must go.

In part 2 **Nathan Gregory** showed Channel Islands destinations and Jersey and Sark as well. All with covers and tourist packs and travel posters. Then some thematic sequences of coins on stamps from Gibraltar and Guernsey that he collected and travel sheets from Singapore and Montserrat.

Then **Alan Cross** showed Commonwealth collections of the 1960`s and International tourist year sheets of 1967. Then 1959 Cayman and Dominican issues of travel stamps. A nice set of sheets.

To finish off the afternoon **Graeme Stewart** showed sheets about travelling through Norway on a scouts walking holiday and covers sent to Newbury. Then covers and pictures of his daughters visit to the Scott Base in Antarctica. Then some colourful pictures of penguins, glaciers and ice sheets. A nice display.

The Funeral for David Beddoes was held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at the Thatcham Crematorium. The Society was well represented by quite a few members. It was a lovely service and the exit music of `Bring Him Home` from Les Miserables just brought tears to the eyes.

The Monday meeting of `Officials and Fiscals` will now take place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September one of our long-serving members, Reg Rhodes, celebrated his 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Happy Birthday Reg and many congratulations.

**THE POSTCARD PAGE (well sort of)**



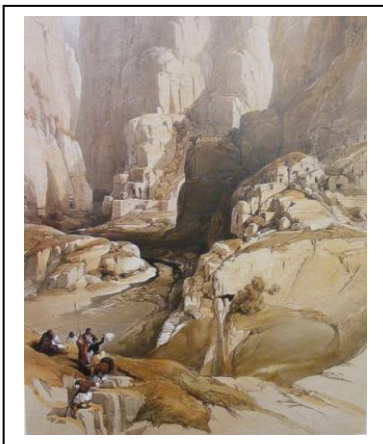
Swedish Issues



Jersey

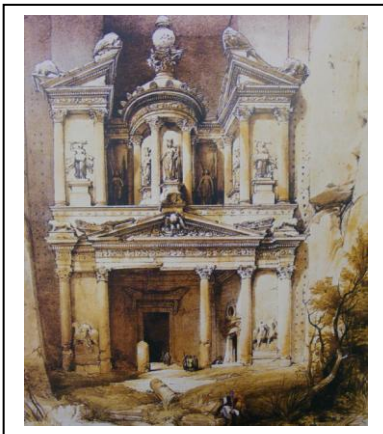
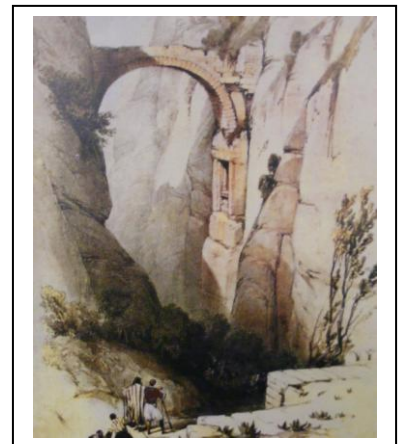


Dancing and Snow



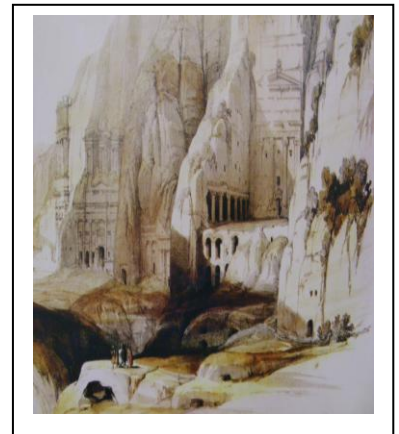
Chasm entrance theatre

Half way down



The Treasury

The East valley end



The Monastery

## USEFUL WEBSITES

New issues at [www.tonybray.co.uk](http://www.tonybray.co.uk)

Royal Mail for all past and new issues at [www.royalmail.com](http://www.royalmail.com)

The society website with lots of data and links at [www.tdps.co.uk](http://www.tdps.co.uk)

Avion Thematics – one of the best organised sites at [www.avionstamps.com](http://www.avionstamps.com)

**\*\*The Avion website now incorporates the stock listings for Phoenix International\*\***

Portsmouth stamp shop for awkward items and covers at [www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk)

A.B.P.S for all the latest philatelic news, events and links at [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk)

## A.G.M. Report

Held on Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup>. There were 20 members present, with apologies from 6 more members.

The minutes of the last AGM were read and passed and there were no matters arising.

Our Chairman, **Barney Bardsley**, read out his final annual report as he was stepping down after the meeting having served for 7 years. At present our membership stand at 44 and what a diverse membership we are with wide and wonderful philatelic interests and he gave thanks to all the members that had assisted him and the society in so many ways.

The treasurer, **Mike Ward**, then read his financial report which had been issued to all. **Martin Farr** had carried out the accounts audit and showed a true record of the society transactions for the year all and everything was in order. The finances are in very good health but with falling membership, the income from Westbex is relied upon. Our President, **John Baron**, said that the financial balance of £9,000 is significantly higher than most of the societies in the country. Discussions took place as to spending some of it and a good suggestion was to hire a coach for next year's big May 2020 Stamp Fair in London.

Subscriptions will remain at £10 for the time being

The election of the Society Officers then took place. **Mike Smith** was elected as our new Chairman and he agreed to let Barney continue with the meeting. **Graeme Stuart** will continue as our excellent Secretary as will **Mike Ward** as our Treasurer.

There were two more members elected to the committee – **Paul Wilkinson** and **Andrew Gore** and **Martin Farr** was re-elected as the financial examiner.

**Graeme Stuart** had issued his Westbex report for perusal and thanked all those contributing to Westbex 19 and in the future for Westbex 20 which will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> and 13 dealers are already booked.

Both Graeme and Martin are ok for Westbex 20 but may not be organising Westbex in 2021 and so some volunteers are needed to assist and 'learn the ropes' so to speak.

**Neil Hatton** then talked about his Packet Secretary Report. The number of society participants has dropped from 21 to 18 since last year and each box takes about 9 months to complete the circuits with quite a few external vendors contributing to the system. The financial balance is £1078 but this is used to pay all the vendors for their sales with a small profit for the society. **Please do complete the docket sheets so boxes can be locations can be traced**

Two of our members were elected as Honorary Life Members for carrying out society duties over many years.

They were **Dave Tanner** looking after the Club Stamps and **Martin Farr** for all his contributions to the society. They were both quite amazed at being selected.

There was no other business and so the AGM was closed.

We then had a nice buffet prepared by **Juliet** and **Ian** with drinks served by **Martin** and this was followed by a quiz all about Shops – e.g. 'Not so fast flower' = Waitrose.

There were 20 questions and the winner with 15 correct was **Paul Watkins** who received a box of chocolates.

To finish off the evening there was an auction of stamps and covers provided by **Bob Paterson** in aid of Amyloidosis Research and conducted by our new Chairman **Mike Smith**. £38.50 was raised for them.

There was no other business and so we all went home

p.s. many thanks to **Nathan Gregory** for putting out all the tables and chairs

# THE BACK PAGE

## “Club Stamps” corner

**Club Stamps** are well looked after by **Dave Tanner** who will be present at most of our club meetings. There will usually be a Club Table at all stamp fairs held at the Memorial Hall.

### Accessories

Dave is also the contact for the purchase of all philatelic accessories – most of which are available to be ordered at a small discount.

Stamps of the World Catalogue set (normal price - £200 ) – TDPS price £155 + p&p

Collect British stamps (normal price - £12.95 ) – TDPS price £10 + p&p

GB Concise (normal price - £30) – TDPS price £23.50 + p&p

A small percentage always goes to club funds. Give Dave a ring on 01256 780467

### New Issues

August	Forests and Musical Giants
September	Royal Navy Ships
October	To be announced yet
November	Christmas issues
December	Christmas issues

### Future Programme and Events

Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Cancelled. David Beddoes Funeral
Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup> September	AGM, Social Evening, Quiz and Charity Auction
Monday	7 <sup>nd</sup> October	`Autumn/The Fall`
Saturday	5 <sup>th</sup> October	37 <sup>th</sup> Annual Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall Thatcham Auction lots will be on view
Thursday	17 <sup>th</sup> October	Auction Night. Viewing from 6.30 pm.
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> November	`Explorations and Conquests`
Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup> November	“The £5 Orange” with John Horsey
Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup> December	4 Favourite sheets from your collection, Christmas Social Evening and a Quiz.
Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Competitions, Social evening and Quiz
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> January	`Winter` (let us hope its not too cold!)
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup> February	`Officials and Fiscals`

### Officers of the Club

<b>President</b>	John Baron	01933 650092
<b>Chairman</b>	Mike Smith	01189 333257
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Still vacant	
<b>Secretary</b>	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Ward	01635 864307

### Committee

Colin Bartholemew	01635 865457
Neil Hatton	01635 280639
Paul Watkins	07870 851837
Andrew Gore	01635 281552

**Archivist** Still Need One

**WestBex** Graeme, Martin and Ann

**Publicity**

Martin Farr